

In the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 with the following:

D2 The present invention can be implemented in an on-line educational learning center. The learning center may provide on-line opportunities for students to enroll in educational courses pertaining to any number of different subject areas and to be tested on the information presented in the course. The exam questions that exist within the on-line learning center can be provided by the creator and host of the learning center, or can be provided by third parties (e.g. universities or vendors). A third party wishing to submit and create exam questions utilizing the interactive applet of the present invention can access a learning center Web site, using a browser such as the HOTJAVA ~~HotJava~~ browser from Sun Microsystems, Inc. of Palo Alto, California or ~~Netscape Navigator~~ NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR from Netscape Communications. The browser utilized, for the purposes of the embodiments illustrated herein, supports the JAVA language, so that the third party can provide exam questions to the on-line learning center. A JAVA applet may guide the third party through the process of creating exam questions for an on-line course within the on-line learning center structure.

Please replace second full paragraph on page 4 which continues on to page 5 with the following:

D3 JAVA is an object-oriented, platform-independent computer programming language and environment suitable for writing programs that run over the Internet. JAVA is a trademark and registered trademark of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States and other countries. As used herein, the term "applet" refers to a program designed to be executed from within another application. An applet is typically a small, specialized application written in the JAVA programming language that can be included in an HTML or XML page, much in the same way an image is included and can be executed in a Web browser. Applets allow developers to add "interactive" content to Web documents (such as animation, page adornments, games, etc). Applets can be downloaded from a Web server and executed within a JAVA-compatible browser (e.g. HOTJAVA ~~HotJava~~) by

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copying code from the Web server to a client. JAVA source code files (i.e. files with a .java extension) are compiled by a JAVA compiler to produce instructions in bytecode (i.e. files with a .class extension), which can then be executed by a JAVA virtual machine (VM). JAVA VM's are available for different platforms and thus, help to provide "platform independence" for JAVA programs.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 6 with the following:

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To run the interactive fill-in-the-blank applet of the illustrative embodiment of the present invention, the Web server 101 sends an HTML document with an embedded fill-in-the-blank applet to a client machine 102 of the network 100. The HTML interpreter 108 then interprets the HTML document. The JAVA ~~Java~~ VM in the Web browser executes the fill-in-the-blank applet and displays a Web page on the video display screen 111 of the client machine 102. The GUI, which will be described in detail with reference to Figures 3 through 7, displays a question to a user and includes a box where the user can input an answer to the question.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7 with the following:

D5
Figure 3 illustrates a Web page 10 generated by executing a fill-in-the-blank applet according to an illustrative embodiment of the present invention. The illustrated fill-in-the-blank applet tests a user regarding information presented in an on-line JAVA tutorial. In Figure 3, the interactive fill-in-the-blank applet is executed within the environment of a ~~Netscape Navigator~~ NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR browser 11. The Web page 10 of the illustrative fill-in-the-blank applet displays question box 12 including a question related to information taught in an on-line course and instructions to the user. The Web page further includes a text box 13. The user is required to type an answer to the question in the text box. A label 15 directs the user to the text box 13. The Web page includes function buttons 19, 21 to facilitate interaction with the user. When a user clicks on a function button using a mouse or other pointing device, the applet responds according to particular instructions stored in an applet file.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 9 continuing onto page 10 with the following:

D6 This code defines the attributes of the HTML document wherein the fill-in-the-blank applet is embedded. Tag `<td width="83%" bgcolor="#e4e4e4">` of the code precedes the question and instructions to the user displayed in question box 12 in Figure 3. The HTML code can be run with the help of a browser such as HOTJAVA ~~HotJava~~ or NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR ~~Netscape Navigator~~. The questions can be viewed by any user running the HTML code using a browser by looking at the source code. Generally, a user can easily view the source code for a Web page by positioning a mouse pointer on the web page and clicking on the right button of the mouse. According to the present invention, the answers to the question are included in a separate file and are not generally available to the user.